

I claim:

1. An article of furniture, adapted for shipment in compact form, comprising:

a top;

a back, hinged in proximity of the rear edge of the underside of the top, to fold downwardly from a position more or less parallel with the top;

opposing left and right side panels, hinged to fold away from a position in which the panels lie more or less parallel with the back; wherein, after the back is folded downwardly and the side panels are hinged outwardly to assemble the article, the upper ends of the side panels support the front of top;

and means for preventing hinge motion of the back and the opposing side panels, when the article is assembled for use.

2. The article of claim 1, wherein the side panels hinge inwardly from the back, so that when the article is folded together, the panels are positioned between the back and top.

3. The article of claim 1 wherein the back, top and sides are mutually perpendicular, when the article is assembled for use.

4. The article of claim 2 further comprising a stop, attached to the underside of an end of the top, for limiting the outward hinge motion of a side panels when the article is assembled for use.

5. The article of claim 1 wherein the back has opposing end legs extending downwardly, to support the article on a floor surface, and wherein the each side panel has opposing legs

extending downwardly to also support the article on a floor surface, and wherein each back leg is hingedly attached to a leg of one of the side panels.

6. The article of claim 5 wherein the article is supported on the floor surface by at least four legs at the rear, arranged in pairs, and two legs in front.

7. The article of claim 1 wherein the means for preventing hinge motion comprises at least one shelf, hinged to fold downwardly from the back, so that the left and right sides of the shelf attach to the side panels.

8. The article of claim 7, adapted for use as a bookcase, having a multiplicity of said shelves.

9. The article of claim 7, further comprising: a second shelf, mounted above said hinged shelf, removably attached by non-hinge fasteners to the side panels near the upper ends thereof.

10. The article of claim 7 wherein a wedge and pocket combination is used to attach the shelf to the side panels

11. The article of claim 1 wherein said means for preventing hinge motion comprises a stretcher running parallel to the hinge line of the top and back, the end of which is connected to at least one side panel.

12. The article of claim 11 further comprising: a means for connecting the end of the stretcher to at least one side panel, which means comprises a pin and slot in combination with a wedge and pocket assembly.

13. The article of claim 1 wherein, when the side panels folded so they lie parallel with the top, there is a gap between the opposing outer ends of the side panels; and, further comprising a stiffener attached to the underside of the table top, in vicinity of said gap.

14. The article of claim 1 further comprising

a middle panel, running parallel to the side panels, detachably attached to the top;

a shelf hinged to the middle panel, to fold downwardly when the middle panel is attached to the top; so the outer end of the shelf attaches to one side panels; and,

a stretcher running between the middle panel and the other side panel;

wherein, the combination of stretcher and shelf comprise said means for preventing hinge motion of the side panels.

15. The article of claim 14, further comprising at least one drawer mounted beneath the top by means of opposing glide assemblies, one each attached to a middle panel and a side panel.

16. The article of claim 15, adapted for use to hold a computer system, wherein said drawer has a downwardly pivotable front panel.